

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND BRIEFS RETURNED STUDY
TOUR VISITORS TO THE U.S. ON AMERICAN-FRG RELATIONS

1. AT A BRIEFING ON DECEMBER 16, ARRANGED BY USIS FOR 40 SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS WHO RECENTLY VISITED THE U.S. AS PARTICIPANTS IN STUDY TOURS, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND DESCRIBED US-FRG RELATIONS AS FREE OF MAJOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS. DURING HIS SHORT INTRODUCTION, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SAID THAT THE MAIN QUESTIONS NOW ARE MULTI-LATERAL, I.E. DETENTE WITH ALL ITS RAMIFICATIONS AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE. DURING THE DISCUSSION PERIOD QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ABOUT U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, THE PROBLEM OF ANGOLA, U.S. POLICY TOWARD SPAIN, AMONG OTHERS.

2. THE REACTION TO THE BRIEFING WAS UNANIMOUSLY POSITIVE. A YOUNG BUNDESTAG STAFFER FROM THE FDP SAID THAT "IT WAS AN HOUR FULL OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION." THE SENIOR STAFF MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE SAID THAT ,IT WAS A MOST SUCCINCT AND CANDID PRESENTATION, WHICH SHOWED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TO BE VITAL AND PRACTICAL, YET BASED ON CORRECT THEORETICAL ASSUMPTIONS."

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3. THE 40 CIVIL SERVANTS WHO TOOK PART IN THE BRIEFING WERE INVITED TO DO SO AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR STUDY VISITS TO THE UNITED STATES EARLIER THIS YEAR. THEIR TRIP WAS SPONSORED BY THE FRG FOUNDATION FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG NATIONS AND TOUR COSTS WERE EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS MAKING THE TRIP AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PARTICIPATED IN MAKING THE STUDY VISITS SUCCESSFUL BY PROVIDING FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE AND INTERPRETERS.
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